

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for drying or concentrating a biodegradable polymer polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) in a polar solvent solution or a biomass comprising submitting said solution or biomass to microwaves for a period of between 30 seconds to 90 minutes to reduce polar solvent concentration from said solution or biomass, wherein said biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyhydroxyalkanoate, polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, poly(lactic-co-glycolic) acid, or a mixture or a copolymer thereof, and wherein said process induces between 0% and 25% degradation of said biodegradable polymer polyhydroxyalkanoate.
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said microwaves are between about 915 to 2450 MHz.
7. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said microwaves produced are between about 100 to 1500 Watts.
8. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said drying or concentrating is performed with less than 5% degradation of said biopolymer PHA.
9. (cancelled)
10. (previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said polyhydroxyalkanoate is selected from the group consisting of poly-3-hydroxybutyrate, poly-3-hydroxyvalerate, poly-3-hydroxypentanoate, poly-3-hydroxyhexanoate, poly-3-hydroxyheptanoate, poly-3-

hydroxyoctanoate, poly-3-hydroxynonanoate, poly-3-hydroxydecanoate, poly-3-hydroxydodecanoate, poly-4-hydroxybutyrate, and a medium chain length PHA, or a mixture or a copolymer thereof.

11. (previously amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, amine, amide, halogenous, cyano, aldehyde, acid, cetone, ester, thiol, and sulfoxide.

12. (cancelled)